

Influenza and RSV Still Prevalent in Los Angeles County

Overall respiratory illness in emergency departments and influenza has fallen to seasonal norms however the percent of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza and/or RSV is still approximately 10% or more each so clinicians must continue to consider these pathogens when evaluating patients (Table 1, Figures 2 and 3). As influenza and RSV slowly decrease other pathogens are increasing including rhino/enterovirus and coronavirus (Figure 2) and also human metapneumovirus (5% of respiratory specimens tested positive for HMPV as of March 23, 2013). A total of 26 deaths due to influenza has been confirmed so far this year. The mean/median age are 69 years and 75 years with a range of 19-100 years. Twenty-two (85%) of the deaths have been due to influenza A; of those that have been typed, the majority are the H3 strain. Almost all cases had significant pre-existing conditions.

Figure 1: Respiratory Illness ED Visits in LA County (2007-2013)
 Percent Positive Visits by MMWR Surveillance Week

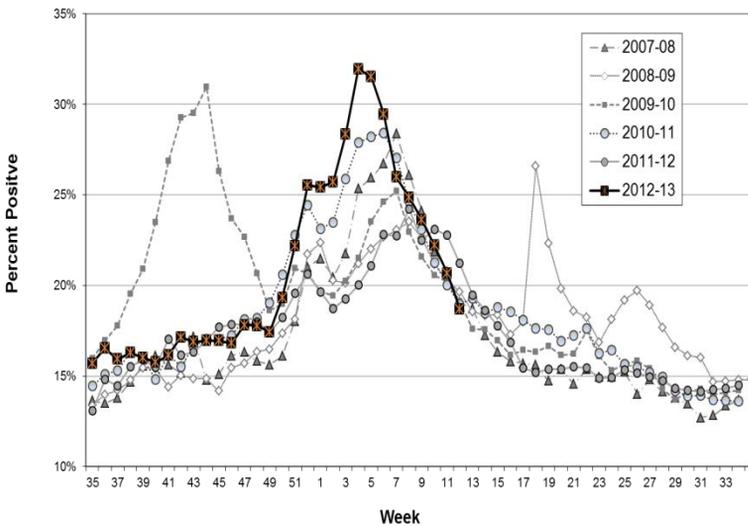


Table 1: Surveillance Summary for LA County (2012-2013)
 MMWR Surveillance Week 12

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 12	2012-2013 Season YTD
Positive Flu Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	53/535 (9.9%)	
Percent Flu A / B	23/77	
Positive RSV Tests / Total Tests (Percent Positive RSV Tests)	44/394 (11.2%)	
Respiratory Outbreaks:		
Community	0	63
Skilled Nursing Facilities	0	25
Flu Deaths, Confirmed (Pediatric Flu Deaths, Confirmed)		26 (0)

Figure 2: Respiratory Viruses in LA County (2012-2013)
 Percent Positive Lab Reports by MMWR Surveillance Week*

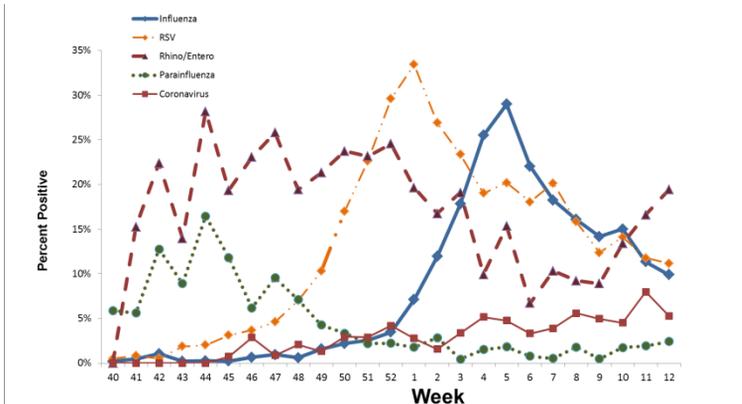
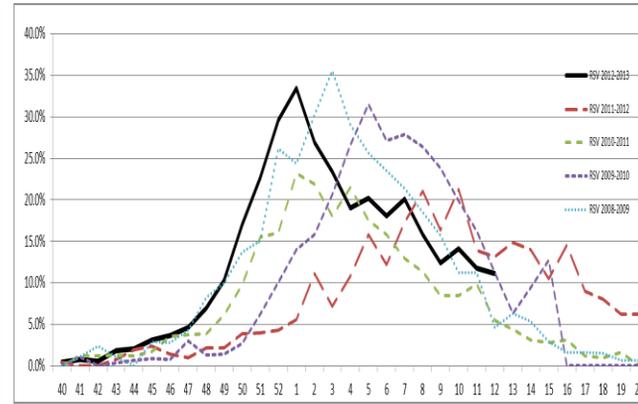


Figure 3: RSV in LA County (2008-2013)
 Percent Positive Lab Reports by MMWR Surveillance Week



(*Data are preliminary: not all laboratories reported week 12 data.) The prevalence of influenza and RSV are slowly decreasing though the prevalence of each is still clinically significant. We have added coronaviruses to this chart to highlight their prevalence in Los Angeles County. Coronaviruses may cause a spectrum of respiratory illness from mild to severe.

RSV activity at this time in 2013 continues to remain high (>10%) even though the peak activity occurred earlier than in the previous 4 respiratory seasons. As can be seen in Figure 3, RSV is commonly detected in specimens even into April and May (weeks 12-20).